

POSTAGE STAMPS MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

REPURCHASE OF UNUSED OR SPOILED STAMPS

Allowance is made under certain conditions for unused postage stamps (including stamps affixed to or impressed or embossed on envelopes or other stationery) which

- (a) have been purchased for postal purposes within the past two years, or
- (b) have been inadvertently and undesignedly spoiled or rendered unfit for use within the past two years.

Stamps which have been removed from any material or cut out or detached from stationery will not be accepted. If the stamps are affixed to or imprinted or embossed on envelopes or other stationery, the envelopes and so on must be surrendered entire, any confidential matter being obliterated if necessary. No allowance can be made for the value of the stationery apart from the value of the stamps. Postage stamps affixed to documents in payment of Inland Revenue duties are regarded as Inland Revenue stamps for purposes of repurchase (see page 597).

Application must be made on a form numbered P674G which can be obtained at any money order office. The form with the stamps must be forwarded prepaid to Postal Headquarters, Postal Finance Department, Cashier's Section (S.R.), St. Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON, E.C.1; or, in Scotland, to the Chief Accountant, Postal Headquarters (F3), Lothian House, EDINBURGH, EH3 9BD. If approved, payment will be made by means of an order sent by post direct to the applicant: if not, the stamps will be returned.

No smaller amount than £1 worth of unused stamps or stamped stationery, or 2s. 6d. worth of spoiled stamps or stamped stationery, will be accepted from one person at one time. As far as possible the stamps should be in blocks or pairs and should be made up into £1 packets, each packet containing stamps of one denomination. Envelopes, postcards, wrappers and so on bearing postage stamps should, if numerous, be banded into hundreds.

Postage stamps affixed to books, cards, or forms of approved design, used for collecting small sums by charitable organisations and similar bodies, are repurchased by special arrangement. Any society or person wishing to adopt this arrangement should make written application to Postal Headquarters, Postal Finance Department, Cashier's Section (S.R.), St. Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON, E.C.1, enclosing a specimen of the book, card, or form proposed to be used.

Commission is charged at the rate of 12½ per cent. of the face value of stamps repurchased, with a minimum charge of 2s. 6d. for unused stamps and 4d. for spoiled stamps.

For information concerning Inland Revenue and insurance stamps, see the appropriate section of this *Guide*.

CERTIFICATION OF PURCHASE OF STAMPS

A purchaser of postage or insurance stamps can obtain an authenticated record of the stamps purchased by presenting a list in duplicate. One copy of the list will be date-stamped and initialled by the counter officer on request.

REPRODUCTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS, POSTMARKS, POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC FORMS

The Post Office Act, 1953, forbids the unauthorised reproduction of postage stamps and postmarks. Information as to the conditions under which reproductions may be authorised can be obtained from Postal Headquarters (OOD/CSD), General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON, E.C.1.

The Act also forbids the unauthorised manufacture or issue of forms in imitation of postal and telegraphic forms, which includes telegram forms and envelopes. Any inquiry about the reproduction or imitation of a telegram or telegram envelope should be addressed to the local Head Postmaster.

Penalties are prescribed for any contravention of the Act.

IMPERFECT OR DEFACED STAMPS

Postage cannot be paid by means of imperfect or defaced postage stamps. Stamps are considered defaced when marked on the face with any written, printed, or stamped characters. Perforation is, however, allowed under certain conditions, see paragraph on *Perforation With Initials*.

Exceptionally, British postage stamps issued in the reigns of King George V, King Edward VIII, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II which have been overprinted for use in territories outside Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man (except stamps overprinted for use in the Irish Free State 1922-3), and on which the original British denominations have not been cancelled, are valid for the prepayment of postage on postal packets posted in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

IMPRESSION OF POSTAGE STAMPS ON CUSTOMERS' OWN MATERIAL

Postage stamps of any value required can be impressed on customers' own material intended to be made into postcards, wrappers, labels or envelopes. The material used should be white, cream or light buff, as other colours are likely to cause alterations in the proper colour of the stamp when impressed. Before material of any other colour is sent for impressing a specimen should be submitted to Postal Headquarters (OOD/CSD), General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON, E.C.1 for approval.

Postcards, wrappers and labels For these items the stamps are surface printed by H.M. Stationery Office Press, Stamping Department, Headstone Drive, Wealdstone, HARROW, Middx. For printing the stamps on the material, fees—based on the number of stamps to be printed on each sheet of material, the number of sheets forwarded with any one order and the type of paper to be used, that is, ordinary, glossy or gummed—are charged in addition to the value of the postage impressed. The fees range from 25s. down to 10s. a thousand impressions. Payment of the fees and the postage may be made at any Head or District Post Office. The material itself should be sent or taken direct to the Stationery Office Press. Full details of the fees and other conditions are contained in form PAS633, which can be obtained from any post office. If the post office does not hold the form in stock it will be obtained specially.

Envelopes For these items the stamps are embossed by the Inland Revenue at Avon House, 275 Borough High Street, LONDON, S.E.1; Albert Bridge House, 1 Bridge Street, MANCHESTER, M60 9BS; and 10 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH, EH1 3YR. In addition to the postage, fees are charged for embossing the stamps at the rate of 15s. per thousand impressions. Payment of the fees and the postage must be made to the Inland Revenue authorities and not to the Post Office. The material itself should also be taken or sent to the Inland Revenue authorities. Full details of the service are contained in form PAS634, copies of which may be obtained from any post office. If the post office does not hold the form in stock it will be obtained specially.

Printing, embossing inquiries Any questions relating to the actual printing or embossing not covered in the forms PAS633 or PAS634 should be addressed to H.M. Stationery Office Press or the Inland Revenue office as appropriate.

OBsolete STAMPS

Postage stamps issued in the reigns of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII are no longer valid for the prepayment of postage, and are not repurchased by the Post Office.

PERFORATION WITH INITIALS

Postage stamps may be perforated with initials (but not with names or trademarks) provided that the perforating holes are no larger than those dividing one stamp from another in a sheet of stamps. The work of perforating postage stamps with initials is not undertaken by the Post Office.

USE OF CUT-OUT POSTAGE STAMPS

Embossed or impressed postage stamps cut out of envelopes, postcards, letter-cards, letter forms, air letter forms, or newspaper wrappers may be used as adhesive stamps in payment of postage or of telegraph charges, provided that they are not imperfect, mutilated, or defaced in any way. Embossed stamps indicating payment of both postage and registration fees, without specifying the proportion in which the amount is divided, may be used in payment of both postage and registration fees; the proportion representing the registration fee will be regarded as the minimum fee for the service, inland or overseas, for which the stamp is prepaying the charge. Stamps indicating the payment of a registration fee may be used only to prepay registration fees; they are not valid for payment of postage.